Woodcarving is practised at many places, and that turned out at Bijbihara is especially noted. The work is artistic, but suffers from the fact that the Kashmiri is a bad carpenter. Lacquered wood-work is produced at Kulgam. Woollen cloth (pattu) is woven all over the State, the best work being produced in the north, while the finished product of the south is especially famous. Blankets are made in many places, and sometimes fetch Rs. 25 a piece. The blacksmiths are very skilful, and some have been able to make surgical instruments and repair gun-locks. The city of Srinagar is noted for its silver, copper, wood-carving, and lacquer. The shawl and paper industries are almost extinct, but many of the shawl-workers have become expert weavers of carpets or have taken to embroidering felts. Good embroidery is also turned out at Islamabad. An industry started very recently, in connexion with the development of sericulture, is the weaving of silk cloth. In 1906 about 100 looms of improved pattern were imported and set up.

Commerce and trade. Up to quite recent times Kashmir was almost a self-supporting country, and the chief imports--piece-goods, metals, salt, sugar, tea, and tobacco--were of modest dimensions. Before the opening of the cart-road from Rawalpindi to Baramula in 1890, the trade was carried by Kashmiris who went down every winter to work in the Punjab, and brought back domestic requisites, or by the professional muleteers,or by Punjabi bullock-drivers. There were three trade routes. The most direct crossed the Banihal pass and ran to Jammu, the railway terminus; the most popular route followed the old imperial road over the Pir Panjal, reaching the railway at Gujrat; and the third was known as the Jhelum valley road, which is now the cart-road and the main line of communication with the Punjab.

In 1892-3 the total imports from India were valued at 48. 7 lakhs. In 1902-3 the imports reached 118 lakhs, but the trade of that and later years was greatly impaired by the prevalence of plague in the Punjab. In 1904-5 the total value was 115 lakhs. The table on the next page shows the value of the more important imports in the years chosen for comparison.

There can be little doubt that Kashmir has increased enormously in prosperity of late years. The land revenue settlement has turned the agricultural classes from serfs into well-to-do peasants, and their wealth is reflected in their increased purchases. The increase in the import of salt is especially satisfactory, as in 1892 it was shown that the annual average of consumption in Kashmir was exactly half of that prevailing in the Punjab.

ment for supply of drinking water to the *kandi illaqa* of Jammu Province, and a special allotment is made in the budget for the purpose every year. Tube wells have been constructed at several places, and water supply schemes for a number of localities are under consideration. 657 312

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Reference has already been made to one of the chief industries in the State, *viz.*, the Sericulture industry, which is a Government concern. The silk filature in Srinagar is the largest of its kind in the world. A special quality of raw silk has been produced in Kashmir, which can favourably compete with silk produced anywhere else. It is interesting to note that the rearing of cocoons for silk provides employment for thousands of homes in the villages, exclusive of the labour that finds employment in the factories themselves. Owing to the rise in the price of silk, sericulture has already made a good contribution to the revenue of the State. A scheme for a large expansion of the industry has been taken in hand. A five-year plan for the expansion of the factory at Jammu has already been sanctioned, and it is expected that at the end of five years, the labour employed in the sericulture operations in the factory premises and in cocoon rearing in the province as a whole will show an increase of 150 per cent. High class carpets are manufactured in Kashmir and exported to Europe and America. Owing to the war, however, this industry has suffered a set-back recently. The industry, as stated before, continues to receive a subsidy from the Government. 655 288

A Department of Industries was established in 1923 to develop and foster industries in the State. The chief among the older industries which have become established are a Match Factory, a Santonine Factory, a Tannery, a Pottery Factory and the Shri Karan Singh Woollen Mills. A Government Silk Weaving Factory has been established to produce high class silk fabrics of different kinds. It has recently been developed and expanded to four times its original size to give a further fillip to the silk weaving industry in the State. A Research and Commercial Sheep Breeding Farm with a research and commercial section has been established to develop the sheep breeding 647 655 288 232 654

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5. Saffron Oil.
6. Extraction of Jasamin, Narcissus and Lilac essences.]
7. Skimia Oil (Scent).
8. Casein preparation.
9. Paints and Varnishes.
10. Honey Purification.
11. Black board chalk Manufacture.
12. Starch Manufacture.

The famous Silk Industry of the State continued to function although its income experienced a considerable fall in the latter half of the decade due to the extraordinary fall in the price of the silk. [288]

Cottage Industries.—A peripatetic demonstration party employed by Government has done useful work by introducing improved fly-shuttle looms and teaching new patterns and designs to the village weavers. The solicitude of Government for the improvement and welfare of the cottage workers is sufficiently exhibited by the handsome grant of Rs. 75,000 sanctioned for granting small loans to the workers. Further proposals for State aid to industries and establishment of an industrial and commercial bank are also under consideration of the Government. 472 654

Birthday Exhibition.—The holding of an annual exhibition at Srinagar of the Industrial and Agricultural products of the State on the auspicious occasion of His Highness' birthday has served to give a wide publicity to the indigenous arts and manufactures through the large mass of visitors who annually flock to the Happy Valley to escape the rigorous heat of the plains as also to enjoy the beauties of nature in Kashmir. 543

The department has prepared a Statistical Atlas for the State and is engaged in bringing out other useful publications such as the Statistical Abstract, Development Map and a Commercial Directory. A clear proof of the spread of industrial atmosphere will be found in the formation of the following five Joint Stock Companies during the decade while formerly the business on Joint Stock System was much less known than practised in the State :— 473

	Share Capital. Rs.
1. The Dogra Commercial and Industrial Company Limited, Jammu ...	300,000
2. Jammu and Kashmir Commercial Syndicate Limited ...	50,000
3. The Lakshmi Trading Company Limited, Srinagar ...	25,000
4. Kashmir Textiles Limited, Srinagar ...	100,000
5. Apna Limited, Srinagar ...	20,000

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206. General.—The population engaged in each class of industry is given in the margin. Compared to 1921 statistics most of the industries display an excess excepting those at items 10, 11, 12 and 13. In order of importance textiles stand first engaging as they do 47·4 per cent. of the total population. The next in importance are the industries of dress and the toilet which afford employment to 20·3 per cent. of the population. The third position is occupied by wood industries which employ 11·9 per cent. of the total industrial population. The remaining industries play a minor role and at the lowest rung come mines with three workers therein.

Nature of Industry.	Population in 1931.	Engaged 1921.
1. Mines ..	3	....
2. Textiles ..	4,488	4,451
3. Hides, skins and hard material from the animal kingdom ..	161	....
4. Wood ..	1,118	1,008
5. Metals ..	111	20
6. Ceramics ..	6/	....
7. Chemical Products ..	208	....
8. Food Industries ..	391	84
9. Industries of dress and the toilet ..	1,907	894
10. Furniture ..	23	189
11. Building ..	83	204
12. Construction of means of transport ..	106	113
13. Production and transmission of Physical Force	228	277
14. Miscellaneous and undefined industries ..	488	....

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207. Textiles.—The industries grouped under this head are given in the margin with the population supported by each of them. The silk factories are the most important of textile factories. The silk factory at Srinagar is believed to be the biggest in the world. Besides giving employment to hundreds of persons in the factory itself it provides a lucrative supplementary occupation to thousands of persons in the Mufassil. Thus according to the statement furnished by the Director of Sericulture Jammu the total number of operatives in the factory is 254 only while the number of Mufassil rearers on the list is 7,467 and this does not include relatives and dependents of rearers who take part in rearing. The total amount of money distributed to rearers in 1987-88 was 148,812 rupees. The help thus given to rearers who are generally agriculturists for their leisure hour's work is considerable. These two factories are owned by the State. The cotton carpet factories come next with 1,210 employees. The cotton carpets are manufactured in the two Central Jails at Jammu and Srinagar and in various weavers' concerns especially in the Kashmir Province. Shawl and fringe weaving is the industry for which Kashmir is most celebrated. For a brief history of it the reader may refer to page 180 of the 1921 report. This industry affords employment to thousands of adults and immatures in Kashmir but due to economic depression the price of shawls has considerably fallen and an era of cheap shawls has set in and cheapness is acting adversely on the quality of produce. Fringe weaving is an accompaniment of the industry as generally all shawls must have fringes. This industry is, however, bound to decline as various imported machine made fringes of foreign countries are now in the market and due to cheapness of price attract custom.

1. Cotton weaving mills	454
2. „ carpet factories	1,210
3. Silk factories	1,528
4. Dye works	6
5. Lace and embroidery works	417
6. Shawl and fringe weaving establishments ..	228
7. Cotton printing works	8

Embroidery is another important handicraft which brings in money to the artisans of Kashmir. There are several articles which are embroidered from pillow cases and felt rugs to sarees. The sarees, however, the only article for which a very large demand exists in the Indian market.

The proportion of female to male workers under textiles is 23 to 180.

The manager and supervising, technical and clerical staff consits of Indians.

The adult operatives are 2,605 males and 491 females while immature operatives consist of 753 males and 426 females, illustrating the often quoted saying "Every Kashmiri child is born with a needle in his teeth".

[Errata: cf. category 11L, p. 330 for correc-tions -- Analyst]

Those below 20 are still too young to complain of unemployment and the fact that no one above 40 is unemployed confirms the belief that they will soon be absorbed somewhere. 162x 464

239. The unemployed when looked at from the point of view of occupation of their fathers disclose an interesting tale. The cultivators come first with menials in the second and artisans in the third place. The cultivator whose calling is not so remunerative as that of a trader or industrialist, takes to education in the hope of finding a financial Elysium which will set him at ease as regards demands of revenue and the money-lender and social customs. It is a pity that their sons have disillusioned them. The motive of menials and artisans is not different. All look upon education as a solvent of financial worries which, however, in its present form it is not.

240. When we look to the qualfications of the unemployed we find that the possessor of British degree is in a glorious minority of one. All others have Indian degrees appended to their names. The largest proportion is made up of academic degrees like M. A., B. A. and M. L. C.[1] There are only three Bachelors of Engineering and one Bachelor of Law amongst the unemployed who may be said to have specialised in a particular line.

241. The number of those who are discontented with their employment is 26 which is really much lower than one would expect.

The stylish living which comes so easy to the English literate at school and college when they live on the hard-earned money of their parents is difficult to keep up at a later age when the employment they get does not bring them abundance of money and they have to pool their small earnings in a joint family. Their discontent is thus easily understood. Moreover, discontent is a necessary condition of progress, and it is really surprising that the only class which should be most vociferous in expressing its dis-satisfaction with existing conditions should be almost mute.

242. Besides the above we have got about 251 under-matrics between the ages of 20-39 who are also seeking the '*El Dorado*' of employment which may be taken as a synonym for Government service. Their tale is not different and need not detain us further. They have got 75 persons below 20 and 2 above 40 who are also unemployed.

243. Decaying Industries.—The following industries are either decaying or have decayed in the State:— 178

1. Shawl-weaving in Basohli tehsil.
2. Manufacture of woolen blankets, woolen Pattis and shoes in Ramnagar tehsil.
3. Lungi and Salwar manufacture in Muzaffarabad tehsil.
4. Paper manufacture in Udhampur and Srinagar tehsils.
5. Calico printing in Samba.

244. Shawl-weaving in Basohli.—The weaving industry of Basohli owed its origin to the patronage of the then Raja of the place who imported a few workmen from Kashmir and got it started. The initiative attracted other workers and the contagion spread to local inhabitants till the industry throve so well that it counted 1,400 establishments and shops dealing in shawls. 178 288

The raw material came from Ladakh and Tibet and was supplied by the traders of Amritsar who took in return the finished product and sold it in the Punjab and Bengal and even exported it to France where a brisk demand existed. The export was unrestricted except that a duty of annas eight per loom was levied by the then Raja.

1 [Errata: read "S.L.C."; cf. errata sheet, A 339 category 116 -- Analyst]

178 The shawls were of different qualities with prices varying from Rs. 40 to Rs. 500. In France the price fetched by a good shawl was handsome.

288 But unfortunately for Basohli, France took into her head to manufacture her own shawls and not only succeeded in meeting its own demand locally but even took to exporting shawls to India. This had a disastrous effect on the industry which could not stand the competition of machine-made shawls. The patronage of the Raja could not avert the catastrophe and the workers dissatisfied with their lot emigrated to places like Amritsar, Sujanpur, Nurpur, Pathankot etc., in the hope of better prospects. The net result was that the industry became extinct and the once prosperous town has been converted into a deserted place.

245. Manufacture of Woolen Blankets, Pattis and Shoes in Ramnagar.—Woolen blankets and Pattis were manufactured in Ramnagar tehsil and were exported to outside places. The Military Department of the State had its requirements met from this tehsil but due to the inroads of machine-made blankets and Pattis with a superior finish and a cheaper price this industry began to decay. The Military Department transferred its custom to cheaper markets which completed the process.

As regards shoe-making, a special variety of shoes was made in the tehsil and found favour with His late Highness whose sad demise led to the cessation of demand and decline of industry.

246. Lungi and Salwar weaving in Muzaffarabad Tehsil.—Lungis (Turbans) and Salwars (female trousers) are manufactured in Muzaffarabad tehsil from raw material imported from outside. But the competition of machine made goods is gradually usurping the market and this industry is showing signs of decay.

289 **247. Paper Manufacture in Udhampur and Srinagar Tehsils.**—In Udhampur tehsil the manufacture of paper was started before 1921 but met an untimely death due to foreign competition.

In Srinagar hand made paper is suffering from similar causes. The mills produce substitutes at about half the price of Kashmir hand made paper. The right sort of raw material is also not available. Such paper as bond paper and other superior paper can be made of rags of good quality which are not available in Srinagar. The resulting paper is very poor and cannot stand competition in quality or price.

288 **248. Calico Printing in Samba.**—This industry is reported to be decaying. There is a community called 'Chhimbas' who follow this profession and who are the cause of the celebrity of the town. Lack of knowledge of the use of aniline dyes and of varied designs is rendering their calling extinct. But His Highness' Government is trying to re-start the industry and thus save it from extinction.